

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01
MMO-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /107 W
-----220340Z 057389 /73

O R 220043Z APR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3253
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 1196

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, UNGA, XO
SUBJ: RESPONSE TO INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE

REF: A USUN 1139 B) STATE 89729

1. AT REQUEST OF INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE, OF WHICH
HE IS ACTING CHAIRMAN, INDONESIAN MINISTER JOEWONO CALLED ON
AMBASSADOR LEONARD APRIL 20 TO FOLLOW UP ON HIS APRIL 14
LETTER (REF A) AND TO ASK WHETHER "RECENT POSITIVE
DEVELOPMENTS" BETWEEN US AND USSR WOULD HAVE ANY EFFECT ON
THE COMMITTEE'S WORK AND ON OUR ATTITUDES TOWARD IT.
JOEWONO STRESSED INTEREST OF THE COMMITTEE IN FINDING MEANS
OF FACILITATING MAJOR-POWER COOPERATION WITH IT, WITHOUT
PREJUDICE TO THEIR POSITIONS AND INTERESTS. IN THIS
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CONNECTION, HE NOTED LANGUAGE IN INVITATION MAKING CLEAR
THAT OBJECTIVE OF INVITATION WAS "TO HEAR...VIEWS ON
IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL FOR THEIR SECURITY AND OTHER
INTERESTS, AS WELL AS THE BEST MEANS OF ADVANCING THE
REALIZATION OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE IOPZ DECLARATION
WITH SUCH MODIFICATIONS AS MIGHT BE FOUND NECESSARY TO
RECONCILE DIFFERENT VIEWS AND INTERESTS."

2. LEONARD SAID THAT JOEWONO'S LETTER WAS UNDER REVIEW. HE NOTED THAT DECISION IN MOSCOW TO INITIATE BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE INDIAN OCEAN WAS OBVIOUSLY AN IMPORTANT STEP AND OF INTEREST TO THE STATES IN THE REGION. BUT, HE ADDED, IT WAS MUCH TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS OR THE RESULTS THAT MIGHT EMERGE, AS WELL AS THEIR BEARING ON THE PARTICULAR WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE. LEONARD ASKED JOEWONO WHETHER, UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS CONSIDERED IMPORTANT THAT AN IMMEDIATE RESPONSE BE PROVIDED TO THE COMMITTEE. JOEWONO SAID NO, THAT IT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT FOR THE TIME BEING TO KNOW THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE INVITATION. HE ADDED THAT, IN THIS EVENT, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE AN INTERIM RESPONSE. ALTHOUGH THE COMMITTEE'S CURRENT SESSION IS TO END APRIL 22, JOEWONO SAID, CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF AN INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE SOME TIME DURING THE SUMMER. THE COMMITTEE ITSELF WILL HOLD ITS FINAL SESSION FOR THE YEAR IN SEPTEMBER.

3. COMMENT. MISSION HAS RECEIVED DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED RESPONSE TO THE INVITATION (REF B) AND GENERALLY SUPPORTS THE APPROACH IT TAKES. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT ITS OVERALL TONE WILL UNNECESSARILY IRRITATE OTHERS, INCLUDING IN PARTICULAR THOSE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE THAT ARE GENUINELY INTERESTED IN KEEPING THE COMMITTEE ON A MODERATE TRACK AND FINDING WAYS OF MEETING MAJOR-CONFIDENTIAL

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POWER CONCERNS. EVEN THOUGH THE RESPONSE COULD BE SEEN AS SLIGHTLY MORE FORTHCOMING THAN PREVIOUS U.S. STATEMENTS, ITS DOMINANT NEGATIVISM WILL BE WIDELY SEEN AS INCONSISTENT WITH OUR PROFESSED INTEREST IN PROGRESS ON INDIAN OCEAN ISSUES. SOME WILL SEE IT AS TANTAMOUNT TO AN ASSERTION THAT, WHILE THE US AND USSR ARE FREE TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE ARMS CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REGION, THE INDIAN OCEAN STATES THEMSELVES, WITH THEIR "DISPARATE AIMS AND INTERESTS," ARE INCAPABLE OF WORKING TOWARD AN EFFECTIVE REGIME AND THUS NO COOPERATION WHATSOEVER WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE WOULD BE POSSIBLE OR DESIRABLE. CORRECT OR NOT, THIS IMPLICATION WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, NEEDLESSLY OFFEND MANY STATES WHOSE COOPERATION AND HELP MAY IN THE LONG RUN BE IMPORTANT FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF OUR OBJECTIVES. WE BELIEVE THAT A FEW FAIRLY MINOR CHANGES IN OUR RESPONSE COULD, WITHOUT SUGGESTING ANY BASIC CHANGE IN POSITION, SUBSTANTIALLY IMPROVE ITS TONE AND LESSEN THE POSSIBILITY OF PROMPTING

A NEGATIVE REACTION FROM OTHERS.

4. FIRST, WE BELIEVE A CLARIFICATION WOULD BE HELPFUL. THE PROPOSED RESPONSE ACTUALLY ADDRESSES ONLY HALF OF THE COMMITTEE'S INVITATION -- I.E., ITS REQUEST THAT WE PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS ON THE QUESTION OF CONVENING A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN. THESE CONSULTATIONS, WHICH ARE INFORMAL, ARE MEANT TO INVOLVE NOT ONLY THE MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE BUT ALSO A NUMBER OF LITTORAL AND HINTERLAND STATES, THE MAJOR POWERS, AND MAJOR MARITIME USERS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN. THEIR SPECIFIC PURPOSE IS TO DISCUSS ISSUES INVOLVED IN CONVENING A MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE. THIS SPECIFIC SUBJECT IS ONLY ONE (ADMITTEDLY MAJOR) ELEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE'S MANDATE. THE OTHER PART OF THE INVITATION IN JOEWONO'S LETTER ASKS US TO "COOPERATE IN A PRACTICAL MANNER WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN THE

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DISCHARGE OF ITS FUNCTIONS." WE BELIEVE THE RESPONSE SHOULD DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THESE TWO AND ANSWER THEM DIFFERENTLY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 1196

5. IN RESPONDING TO THE FIRST (THAT WE PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS), WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD DECLINE, BUT ON THE GROUNDS THAT IT IS NOT CLEAR AT THIS STAGE WHETHER A MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE WOULD NECESSARILY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ESTABLISHING AN ARMS CONTROL REGIME FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN. WHILE IN NO WAY DIMINISHING OUR FLEXIBILITY, CITING SUCH GROUNDS WOULD APPEAR MORE REASONABLE AND CONSIDERABLY LESS ANTAGONISTIC THAN A FLAT DECLARATION THAT A CONFERENCE "WILL NOT PROVE TO BE" AN EFFECTIVE APPROACH (IMPLICITLY: UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES OR AT ANY TIME).

6. IN RESPONDING TO THE REQUEST THAT WE "COOPERATE IN A PRACTICAL MANNER" WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO TAKE A SMALL BUT MEANINGFUL
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STEP BY STATING OUR WILLINGNESS TO KEEP THE AD HOC COMMITTEE INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS THAT ARE RELEVANT TO ITS WORK. SUCH AN OFFER, EXTENDED AS A COURTESY RATHER THAN AS AN OBLIGATION, WOULD NOT IMPLY ANY RECOGNITION OF A SUPERVISORY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMITTEE, BUT IT WOULD INDICATE THAT WE BELIEVE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE DO HAVE A LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN LEARNING ABOUT STEPS THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN.

7. ACTION REQUESTED. TO MEET THESE POINTS, WHICH WE BELIEVE ARE IMPORTANT, WE REQUEST THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING CHANGES IN THE PROPOSED RESPONSE:
(A) FIRST SENTENCE: "THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF APRIL 14, INVITING THE U.S. MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS TO PARTICIPATE IN CONSULTATIONS LOOKING TOWARD THE CONVENING OF A CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN AND TO COOPERATE IN A PRACTICAL MANNER WITH THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN."
(B) REPLACE SECOND AND THIRD SENTENCES OF THIRD PARA WITH THE FOLLOWING: "IN VIEW OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE'S INTEREST IN THIS SAME GOAL, THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO EXTEND ITS PRACTICAL COOPERATION TO THE COMMITTEE BY KEEPING TI INFORMED OF IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS THAT MAY HAVE A BEARING ON ITS WORK AND BE OF INTEREST TO ITS MEMBERS. (NEW PARA) AT THIS STATE, HOWEVER, WE ARE NOT PREPARED TO CONCLUDE THAT THE CONVENING OF A MULTILATERAL CONFERENCE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN WOULD

NECESSARILY BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ESTABLISHING
A DESIRABLE ARMS CONTROL ARRANGEMENT FOR THE
REGION TO WHICH OUTSIDE POWERS MIGHT WISH TO SUBSCRIBE.
WE MUST THUS RESPECTFULLY DECLINE TO PARTICIPATE
IN CONSULTATIONS HAVING AS THEIR EXPRESS PURPOSE THE
FORMULATION OF A PROGRAM OF ACTION LEADING TO THE
CONVENING OF SUCH A CONFERENCE."

8. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT CHANGES ALONG THESE LINES
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RAISE QUESTIONS NEEDING EXTENDED CONSIDERATION, WE
REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO SEND AN INTERIM RESPONSE TO
JOEWONO STATING THAT HIS LETTER IS UNDER REVIEW AND A
FORMAL RESPONSE WILL FOLLOW. AS INDICATED ABOVE,
JOEWONO WOULD REGARD SUCH A REPLY AS SUFFICIENT FOR
PRESENT PURPOSES.

9. WE HAVE INDICATED TO THE SOVIETS THAT WE ARE
PREPARING A FORMAL RESPONSE TO JOEWONO'S LETTER. IN
CONVERSATION WITH OVINNIKOV, AMB. LEONARD ASKED WHETHER
SOVIETS WOULD BE WILLING TO OFFER TO KEEP THE COMMITTEE
INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. OVINNIKOV APPEARED OPEN TO
THE IDEA, EXPRESSING THE VIEW THAT IGNORING THE
COMMITTEE COULD CONTRIBUTE TO HOSTILE AND SUSPICIOUS
ATMOSPHERE. HE AGREED THAT ANY INFORMATION PROVIDED
IN THE NEAR FUTURE WAS LIKELY TO BE ONLY OF A PROCEDURAL
NATURE, RATHER THAN SUBSTANTIVE. OVINNIKOV ALSO SAID
INITIAL SOVIET COMMENTS TO JOEWONO HAD MERELY BEEN
TO REITERATE ELEMENTS OF SOVIET POSITION AS SET OUT IN
THEIR 1976 DISARMAMENT MEMORANDUM, RATHER THAN PROVIDE
A DIRECT RESPONSE TO THE COMMITTEE'S INVITATION. HE
ASKED TO KEEP IN TOUCH IN DEVELOPING FORMAL RESPONSES,
SAYING IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR US AND USSR TO TAKE
COMPATIBLE POSITIONS. LEONARD SAID HE WOULD TALK TO
OVINNIKOV FURTHER BEFORE FORMAL U.S. RESPONSE IS
SUBMITTED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMMITTEES, INVITATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN01196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770139-0938
Format: TEL
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770427/aaaaawsr.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 89729
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2715839
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RESPONSE TO INDIAN OCEAN AD HOC COMMITTEE
TAGS: PARM, XO, US, UNGA, AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEA, (JOEWONO, DJOKO), (LEONARD, JAMES F)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f4f416a0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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22 May 2009
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